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NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

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Agenda item 10 (d)

NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION: INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TECHNOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HAZARDS

Report of Technical Committee D

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1994, the Conference approved the organization of its work as set out in document A/CONF.172/3 and decided to allocate agenda item 10 (Natural disaster reduction) to the Technical Committees. Technical Committee D was organized by the Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and considered agenda item 10 (b) on 25 May.

2. Technical Committee D had before it documents A/CONF.172/6 and Add.1-8, which included the programme of the technical session and summaries of the presentations.

3. The Committee had the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. YE Ruqiu, Deputy Administrator of the National Environmental Protection Agency, China

Rapporteur: Mr. A. BARISICH, Head of Civil Protection Unit, European Commission

Technical Secretary: Mr. A. CLERC, Coordinator, Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, United Nations Environment Programme

4. The following speakers made presentations:

Mr. Jim Makris, Emergency Coordinator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America

Dr. Evgenii Dmitriev, Director, Institute of Applied Ecology, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Russian Federation

Mr. Hideaki Oda, Ministry of Construction, Japan

Dr. Channaronk Chandrachoti, National Economic and Social Development Board, Thailand

Mr. Alain Clerc, Coordinator, Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance, UNEP

Dr. Claudio Margottini, Ente per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e l'Ambiente (ENEA), Italy

Professor Julio Kuroiwa, National University of Engineering, Peru

Professor Enrico Quarantelli, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, United States of America

5. The Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) The concept of "Na-techs" (natural and technological disasters) should be fully recognized in the final conclusion of the conference;

(b) The use of an integrated approach should be developed for the management of natural and technological hazards;

(c) The integrated approach of "Na-techs" should be fully included in environmental aspects of disasters;

(d) In this respect, an important role should be given to cooperation between the private and the public sector;

(e) Planning and environmental impact assessment and the use of advanced models should be promoted both at national and international level;

(f) Decision makers should be made aware of the importance of the prevention of "Na-techs";

(g) Better cooperation between cities in the management of "Na-techs" should be encouraged;

(h) The use of relevant existing international framework and programmes such as the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) programme and the Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance of UNEP, the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development should be developed and better supported;

(i) The vulnerability to "Na-tech" disasters of the developing countries in particular should be recognized;

(j) In this respect, considerations by the international community should be given to the transfer of technology and financial support to the developing countries.